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Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

I. Introduction

The present addendum contains information from 20 additional replies to the request contained in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 63/125 of 11 December 2008, received subsequent to the submission of the main report, from Belarus, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Finland, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, the Sudan and Turkmenistan and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).[1]

II. Information received from Member States

Belarus

[4 June 2010]

In 2008, the act "On the rights of the child" was amended to prohibit the recruitment or involvement of children in armed conflicts.

[1] The full texts of the replies are available for review on the website of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly (http://www.un.org/ga/sixth), sixty-fifth session, "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts", report of the Secretary-General; full texts of the replies.

Please recycle

The act on the granting of refugee and asylee status, which entered into force in 2009, provides for additional protection for one year for foreign or stateless persons who are not otherwise eligible for refugee status but who legitimately fear for their lives if they return to their normal place of residence because of international or internal armed conflict.

The Ministry of Defence, in 2009, established instructions concerning the application of the norms of international humanitarian law in the armed forces and transport units. A new law is being drafted to establish a clear legal foundation for the work of the Belarusian Red Cross Society.

In 2008, amendments were adopted to article 1 of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons. In 2008, Belarus acceded to Protocol V to the Convention, and in 2009 to Protocol III; Belarusian legislation is being amended accordingly.

In 2008 and 2009, international agreements on cooperation in the prevention and elimination of emergency situations were adopted with the United Nations and with Poland, China, Viet Nam, Armenia, Bulgaria and Tajikistan. In 2009, humanitarian assistance was provided to Ukraine and Tajikistan.

In 2008, a syllabus on humanitarian law was adopted for schools and for vocational and secondary specialized institutions, along with a guide for teachers. The course is taken by over 12,000 students every year.

Every year, conferences on international humanitarian law are held in Belarus, as well as an international youth olympiad, "Youth for Peace". In 2008, the Belarusian Red Cross Society held a conference on enhancing student awareness of international humanitarian law. In 2009, a number of events were organized to celebrate significant anniversaries of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

In 2009, a round table was organized on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. Measures are planned in 2010 to enhance Belarusian legislation on the subject. The Ministry of Culture is preparing a catalogue of all museum collections, which is expected to be completed in 2013. A register of historical and cultural treasures is also being drawn up, and a knowledge bank about the historical and cultural heritage of Belarus is being established.

In 2008 and 2009, a great deal of work was carried out to disseminate international humanitarian law among military personnel, including through seminars, conferences, contests, and training courses in other countries.

In 2008 and 2009, four meetings of the Commission on the implementation of international humanitarian law were held under the auspices of the Council of Ministers, with the participation of representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In 2008, decisions were adopted on measures to inculcate schoolchildren with respect for the memory of those who defended the Fatherland and of war victims; and in 2009, the Commission recommended the inclusion of a course on international humanitarian law in the curricula for students of law, medicine and the military, as well as students in other humanitarian fields.

Other measures included the dedication of a statue of Henry Dunant, the founder of ICRC, in Minsk on 7 May 2010.

In 2009, the topic of Belarus' experience in the implementation of international humanitarian law was taken up at the fourth session of the Council of Ministers of Justice of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Belgium

[31 August 2010]

The most noteworthy events in this area have been the following:

The ratification in 2009 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, dated 30 May 2008; and, in 2010, of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention). Belgium may also shortly deposit the instruments of ratification of the Second Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Regarding cooperation between Belgium and international criminal jurisdictions, Belgium has concluded, or is in the process of negotiating with a view to concluding, the following specific cooperation agreements:

- With the International Criminal Court: an agreement for the relocation of witnesses in Africa, which was signed in 2009; a memorandum of understanding concerning requests for technical and scientific assistance was signed in 2010; and an agreement for the enforcement of sentences, signed during the Review Conference of the Rome Statute in Kampala in 2010;
- With the Special Court for Sierra Leone: agreements are being negotiated for the relocation of witnesses and for the enforcement of sentences.

Furthermore, with the support of ICRC, Belgium submitted the proposal which led to the first amendment to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, adopted in 2010 in Kampala by the first Review Conference of the Rome Statute. This amendment aims to extend to non-international armed conflicts three categories of weapons, the use of which is already considered as a war crime in international armed conflicts. This amendment therefore helps to harmonize the rules of international humanitarian law applicable to all situations of armed conflict.

Belgium intends to make an early start on the process of ratifying the amendments (relating to the crime of aggression and war crimes) adopted by the Review Conference.

Burkina Faso

[2 July 2010]

The Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions have been in force in Burkina Faso since 1988.

An Act was adopted in 2003 in accordance with the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1977, which protects the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems and insignia designed to identify medical personnel, units and transports.

An Act was adopted in 2005, authorizing Burkina Faso to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Many Burkina Faso experts have participated in work on the follow-up to and implementation of a number of conventions concerning the rights of civilians in times of armed conflict.

Chile

[29 June 2010]

Chile reported on the status of the Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions and on the status of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (including their publication in the Official Gazette in 1991-2003 and on the situation with regard to other principal international humanitarian law treaties).

Chile has ratified the great majority of international instruments on international humanitarian law and has been incorporating into its domestic law the obligations arising from those instruments.

Chile became a party to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in 2009, and is currently in the process of implementing it. For that purpose, the National Commission on Humanitarian Law is coordinating with the relevant national bodies with a view to determining and defining the cultural property that will be subject to protection under the Convention.

Chile ratified the International Criminal Court Statute in 2009. Chile's ratification of the Rome Statute is linked with the promulgation of the law that enumerates crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes in its legislation, and this has involved the incorporation into domestic law of the penalties prescribed by the Rome Statute.

Established in 1994, the National Commission on Humanitarian Law is made up of representatives of the Ministries for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Education, Health, Justice and the Interior.

The Commission is in constant contact with ICRC and has the primary objective of ensuring the effective implementation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and in general of promoting all principles of international humanitarian law.

International humanitarian law is part of the training for careers in law, political science and journalism and at the War Academies of the Armed Forces.

In the light of Chile's ratification in 2009 of Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions, and relating to the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem (red diamond), the dissemination of this new distinctive sign constitutes a highly relevant task. Thus, it is hoped to incorporate it into study programmes and texts of the Ministry of Education and to carry out other dissemination activities.

One item on the agenda of the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law in recent years has been the creation of a National Information

Office, as laid down in section V of the Third Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. Reports have been prepared on experiences of other countries in setting up this type of office, as have reports by national agencies.

The purpose of a project on preventing the disappearance of persons and on systems of reparation is to take the measures needed to avert and prevent the disappearance of persons in the event of armed conflict and to provide assistance and information to their families. The institutions involved in taking the measures needed to avert and prevent the disappearance of persons in the event of armed conflict and to provide assistance and information to their families, to which the questionnaire prepared by ICRC was sent, transmitted their reports to the Commission, and these served as the basis for a report which is in the final stages of revision.

Colombia

[15 July 2010]

Colombia is already a party to the Protocols relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts and has made the declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I.

Colombia is a party to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the two Protocols thereto. It has enacted legislation establishing Colombia's adherence to a wide range of treaties on international humanitarian law and human rights.

In 2008, the Ministry of Defence issued a comprehensive policy paper on human rights and international humanitarian law.

In 2009, Colombia adopted an instrument that regulates the use of force by the military. A manual of law governing operations, which provides general guidance on the authorized use of force in different operational contexts and describes the legal tools available to check on the legality of operations, was issued.

Colombia enlisted the support of ICRC for the organization of two workshops concerned with the improved implementation of international humanitarian law in military operations. Twelve workshops in international humanitarian law for advisers, instructors and other staff at military training colleges were also held.

In 2000, a Standing Intersectoral Committee to Coordinate and Monitor National Policy in the Areas of Human Rights and international humanitarian law, headed by the Vice-President, was established.

In 2003, Colombia adhered to the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Colombia has been a leader in international efforts to eliminate cluster munitions. In addition, besides ratifying the 1997 Ottawa Convention, it has adhered to the 1998 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and the four Protocols thereto.

Under the terms of Act 975 (2005) and its implementing decrees, victims have the following rights: to be heard; to be granted prompt and full reparation; to receive

assistance from the Office of the Ombudsman in exercising their rights; to obtain guidance from the National Reparation Commission; to be treated humanely; to receive legal aid; and to have the services of an interpreter.

The State provides a number of services for victims, ranging from emergency care and psychological support to administrative remedies and compensation.

Various measures have been adopted with an eye to the state of violence in Colombia. They deal primarily with prevention, dissemination of information, promotion of human rights and international humanitarian law, and discipline.

Finland

[4 June 2010]

In 2009, Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions entered into force in Finland. The Act on the use of some internationally protected emblems was revised in connection with the ratification of the Protocol.

Regarding the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the two Protocols thereto, Finland ratified the Second Protocol in 2004. Finland also ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict in 2002. Currently, Finland is preparing the ratification in 2012 of the so-called Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines.

Finland has recognized the competence of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission by a declaration in 1980 and is financially supporting the work of the Commission.

The necessary national implementing legislation was passed in 2000 when the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was ratified by Finland. In 2008, the Finnish Criminal Code was brought into line with the Rome Statute. An agreement was signed in 2010 on the enforcement of sentences with the Court. Finland also gives financial support to the activities supporting the International Criminal Court, including the International Criminal Court Trust Fund for Victims.

Finland has an active national Committee for International Humanitarian Law. This Committee works under the auspices of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and brings together international humanitarian law experts from different ministries, armed forces and from organizations such as the Finnish Red Cross (FRC), the Finnish Branch of Amnesty International and the Finnish Society of Humanitarian Law, *Humanitaarisen Oikeuden Seura*. This national Committee was already established in 1993 and was reconstituted and broadened in 2009. The main task of the Committee is to follow up on the implementation of the different pledges made by Finland and FRC at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conferences. Furthermore, the Committee for International Humanitarian Law follows domestic legislation processes that relate to international humanitarian law, and is key to identifying issues of implementation that should be addressed at a national level.

At the thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in 2007, Finland made a total of 10 specific pledges. Together with Sweden and Switzerland, Finland pledged to continue to promote a shared understanding of how international humanitarian law should be applied to computer

network attacks during armed conflict, building on the international process of discussions and deliberations already initiated. Thus, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has supported financially a recently published study carried out by the Erik Castren Institute of International Law and Human Rights entitled, "A battle in bits and bytes — computer network attacks and the law of armed conflict".

Finland financially supports the international humanitarian law dissemination activities of FRC. FRC carries out its dissemination through training, seminars, publications, a Finnish language international humanitarian law website, as well as general advocacy work. The Government seeks to co-organize a number of the dissemination activities together with FRC.

During 2009, FRC organized a number of training sessions. These included a one-day training session on weapons and international humanitarian law that was organized for State civil servants, as well as two three-day international humanitarian law courses for the armed forces. A nine-lesson teaching material package aimed at 14 to 19-year-old school students was launched.

The Finnish Defence Forces started, in 2009, an analysis on international humanitarian law training in the armed forces, with a view to identifying possible needs for improvement. This work will continue during 2010. Generally, the personnel of the armed forces attend different international humanitarian law training modules organized by FRC or the International Institute of Humanitarian Law.

In 2009, Finland's Comprehensive Crisis Management Strategy was published. The aim of the strategy is to strengthen a comprehensive approach in Finnish crisis management activities. The strategy also includes references to international humanitarian law by generally underlining as strategic guidelines the fact that Finland emphasizes the importance of respecting international law and the protection of civilians in crises, the promotion of international humanitarian law and that human rights is one of the key objectives of the European Union.

Hungary

[22 September 2010]

Hungary is party to all the major treaties in the field of international humanitarian law. During the current reporting period, it ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000) in 2010. The Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008) was signed in 2008; the ratification is still ongoing.

The National Advisory Committee for the Dissemination and Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (established in 2000) is a forum for the relevant Hungarian authorities to initiate and coordinate measures aimed at a more effective implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level. In recent years, the Committee, in cooperation with the Hungarian Red Cross Society and ICRC, has taken steps to promote better protection of the Red Cross emblem through the initiation of legislation and other legal measures, as well as the launching of public awareness-raising campaigns.

International humanitarian law training is part of the curricula at military higher education institutions. Hungarian military observers and contingents of international peacekeeping missions also receive a predeployment training in international humanitarian law. The Service Regulations of the Hungarian Defence Forces contain the principles and provisions of international humanitarian law instruments.

At the Review Conference of the International Criminal Court Statute in Kampala (2010), Hungary made a pledge, inter alia, to review and update its instruments in support of the Court following the Conference.

Jamaica

[22 June 2010]

The Government of Jamaica has drafted the necessary legislation to incorporate the provisions of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 into domestic law. The legislation is currently being reviewed by its relevant stakeholders. When the review is completed, it will be submitted to the Parliament for enactment.

The Government of Jamaica has ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. The provisions of the Optional Protocol have been implemented in domestic law by the Defence Act and regulations made under that Act.

Japan

[9 June 2010]

Japan established relevant domestic laws necessary for the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, such as the Act to prohibit and regulate production and possession of cluster munitions, and concluded this Convention in 2009.

The Government of Japan has provided assistance for carrying out activities to clear unexploded ordnance, including landmines and cluster munitions, as well as to assist the victims of those munitions. Since 1998, the total amount of assistance extended to 44 countries and regions is approximately $420 million (approximately 40 billion JYP). Japan continues to play a proactive role in this area, and encourages other countries to conclude this Convention in collaboration with civil society, in order to advance the legal norm to ban cluster munitions in the international community.

Lebanon

[21 July 2010]

Lebanon honours all international instruments relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts and shares the concern of the international community over inhumane practices which occur in armed conflicts. The international

community must exert intensive efforts to eliminate such practices, in accordance with international human rights standards.

Lebanese legislation includes measures necessary for the protection of victims of armed conflicts and punishment of those responsible for any war crimes which may occur. International humanitarian law has been integrated into the training curriculums of all military training institutes at all levels. Moreover, annual courses in this area have been inaugurated for officers, and lectures and seminars are held on this topic for various military units.

Mexico

[2 June 2010]

Mexico has ratified most international treaties pertaining to international humanitarian law. Mexico is a State party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I of 1977 Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998 and other core international humanitarian law treaties.

In 2008, Mexico ratified the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions Relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III) of 8 December 2005, which came into force in Mexico in 2009.

Mexico deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2009; it will come into force in 2010.

One of the main objectives in the 2010 programme of work of the recently created Inter-Ministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law is to review the definition of offences contained in the Federal Criminal Code, in the light of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocol I, with a view to bringing them into line with international standards.

The Inter-Ministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law has met this commitment through a promise that the Government of Mexico decided to make at the 2010 Kampala Review Conference of the Rome Statute. The Commission's work will lead to the submission to Congress in 2011 of draft amendments to the Federal Criminal Code.

Mexican law regulates the offences of the possession, bearing, manufacture, trade, import, and export of conventional weapons and related activities.

The Act Governing the Use and Protection of the Red Cross Designation and Emblem came into force in Mexico in 2007.

Mexico is a party to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols. However, specific legislation guaranteeing the protection provided for in the above-mentioned international instruments has yet to be adopted.

Regarding conduct that constitutes a war crime related to civilian property under the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocol I, and under the Rome Statute, the Inter-Ministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law is

reviewing domestic criminal law with a view to bringing it into line with international standards.

Mexico's armed forces have incorporated instruction and training in international humanitarian law into military doctrine and manuals, and have developed ongoing training activities, in order to sensitize military personnel to the need to ensure that all their activities are conducted in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Lecture series and courses in international humanitarian law are organized periodically for all military personnel. The armed forces of Mexico have staff specialized in international humanitarian law who are responsible for delivering lectures. A training course for lecturers in international humanitarian law is offered at the Centre for Army and Air Force Studies.

International humanitarian law is included in the curricula of all institutions in the military training system of the units, establishments and installations of the Army and Air Force. Training schools, including the Centre for Advanced Naval Studies, also provide training in international humanitarian law and human rights.

Military personnel carry out tactical exercises for the purpose of applying international humanitarian law. National and international conferences and activities related to international humanitarian law are held with the support of ICRC. Published material includes the following:

- The four Geneva Conventions and Protocol I of 1977;
- International Humanitarian Law handbook;
- Booklet containing brief summary of battle conduct;
- The Convention with Respect to the Laws and Customs of War;
- The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Bibliographical material related to international humanitarian law, provided by ICRC, is distributed to naval and military educational institutions to be used as teaching and reference support. In addition, the Federal Public Administration, in collaboration with ICRC, has held a number of training courses for public servants.

In order to establish an institutional framework for activities concerning promotion and dissemination of respect for the rules, principles and institutions of international humanitarian law and its effective application, in 2009, the Executive Agreement establishing the permanent Inter-Ministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law came into force.

The Commission decided to host the International Conference of National Commissions on international humanitarian law of Latin America and the Caribbean from 30 June to 2 July 2010 in Mexico City to bring together representatives of the 19 national commissions on international humanitarian law of the region and renowned public servants and experts in the field.

Poland

[31 August 2010]

The Republic of Poland is a party to almost all fundamental international humanitarian law instruments. In 2009, Poland ratified Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions.

In 1992, Poland recognized the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission established on the basis of article 90 of Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions.

In 2004, an inter-ministerial commission on international humanitarian law was established, tasked with the dissemination of the international humanitarian law norms for the purpose of introducing them into the Polish legal system. In 2009, the commission adopted its first report.

Polish officers regularly participate in international seminars and courses devoted to this field of law, including those organized by ICRC, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo and the International Society of Military Law and Law of War.

Elements of international humanitarian law are also incorporated into the training of police officers, in preparation for service with foreign United Nations and European Union police missions. The Centre for the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law has operated since 1977. It is tasked with the dissemination of information about international humanitarian law, as well as the principles and mission of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

By the end of 2010, Poland intends to ratify Additional Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

Qatar

[21 June 2010]

The Centre for Legal and Judicial Studies plays an important role in raising awareness of international humanitarian law through its training, awareness-raising and research activities for all law enforcement staff.

A key lecture on international humanitarian law was included in each of the following: a workshop on international standards for the rights of prisoners and detainees, organized for officers by the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of the Interior, in conjunction with the Qatar Red Crescent and held in 2007; a workshop for law enforcement officials in international and domestic legislation to combat torture, organized by the Human Rights Department and the Bureau of Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and held in 2009; and the first thematic human rights workshop for security service officers, held in 2010.

The first workshop for officers on the culture of international human rights law is to be held some time before October 2010.

Qatar would like to underline its support for the United Nations General Assembly resolution in question, which calls for States to become parties to the Conventions and Protocols, which form part of international humanitarian law. Qatar is bound, inter alia, by the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding children's participation in armed conflicts, and the Qatari Armed Forces do not recruit, train or employ children.

A draft military code contains provisions which criminalize conduct prohibited under the Conventions and the Additional Protocols, in particular with regard to the treatment of prisoners of war.

An international humanitarian law committee has been established within the Qatari Armed Forces to disseminate a culture of international humanitarian law among all members of the armed forces.

Under the auspices of ICRC, the Arab League, and specialized international organizations, numerous Qatari Armed Forces officers have been sent to Arab and other countries in order to participate in advanced specialized courses in international humanitarian law.

The Qatari Armed Forces, in collaboration with the ICRC Regional Delegation for Kuwait, have established programmes and workshops in Qatar which bring together the relevant military and civilian authorities with a view to disseminating a culture of international human rights law and the relevant Conventions. The Qatari Armed Forces, through the Ahmad Bin Mohammed Military College, teach international humanitarian law to military college students as part of the academic programme.

The Armed Forces international humanitarian law committee prepares programmes and training curricula on the issue that are taught to military officers and other ranks in mandatory courses at Qatari Armed Forces training institutes. A specialist publication containing the key provisions of international humanitarian law was issued.

Republic of Korea

[17 August 2010]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade held the ninth session of the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law in 2010. Participants reviewed the current status of the implementation of international humanitarian law in Korea and discussed ways of facilitating its dissemination at the national level.

An inter-ministerial task force has been set up to conduct a feasibility study on Korea's accession to the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property. The task force is scheduled to complete its activities by the end of 2010.

The Ministry of Defence and the ICRC Regional Delegation for East Asia are planning to hold a regional seminar on current perspectives on the regulation of means of warfare in September 2010.

The Seoul International Humanitarian Law Academy held the third Seoul Forum on international humanitarian law in 2010, in collaboration with the Korean Red Cross Humanitarian Law Institute and the Korean Society of International Law.

The Korean Red Cross Society held regular sessions of the advisory committee on international humanitarian law in March and July of 2010. The Korean Red Cross Society is planning to hold the second international humanitarian law Moot Court Competition in October 2010. It held its first competition in October 2009.

Republic of Moldova

[8 September 2010]

Moldova ratified Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions in 1993 and ratified Additional Protocol III in 2008. The national legislation of Moldova contains provisions governing the matters covered by those protocols.

A Government decision, adopting the Regulations on a National Committee for Consultations and Agreement on the Implementation of Humanitarian Law, entered into force in 1999.

The penal legislation of Moldova criminalizes the offences covered by the Geneva Conventions.

Slovak Republic

[22 September 2010]

The Slovak Republic is a State party to the Geneva Conventions and to Additional Protocols I, II and III thereto. It is also a party to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and to the two Protocols thereto (1954 and 1999).

The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict of 2000 to the Convention on the Rights of the Child entered into force in the Slovak Republic in 2006.

An integral part of the implementation of the principles of international humanitarian law is the fulfilment of Slovakia's commitments under legally and politically binding documents on armament control and disarmament, commitments relating to the implementation of confidence and security-building measures and the fulfilment of its commitments arising from international treaties in the field of international humanitarian law relating to the protection of victims at the time of armed conflict and to the prohibition of the development, manufacture, stockpiling and use of certain types of weapons, especially weapons of mass destruction (except for the Convention on Cluster Munitions of 2008).

In 2006, the Guidelines of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic on the protection of cultural assets in case of an armed conflict were approved and put into effect. The Guidelines are aimed at implementing the principles of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and of Protocol II to the Convention (1999) in the planning and execution of military operations and in the instruction and training of armed forces. The Guidelines were amended in 2009. In addition, Guidelines of the Ministry of Defence relating to training on the law of armed conflict were issued.

An agreement was signed in 1999 between the Ministry of Defence and ICRC on cooperation in the area of international humanitarian law dissemination. From 1999 to date, the defence ministry sector has been implementing the agreement in its entirety.

The principles of international humanitarian law and of the law of armed conflict are incorporated into instruction and training programmes for the members of the armed forces of the Slovak Republic.

The units undergoing preparation for deployment in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union or United Nations-led international crisis management operations receive special training, which is focused on relevant issues.

The Slovak Republic and the Slovak Red Cross cooperate closely with the legal advisory service of ICRC; this cooperation has resulted, inter alia, in several successful projects related to the implementation and dissemination of international humanitarian law in Slovakia, such as issuance of specialized publications. In cooperation with ICRC, the defence ministry sector published translations of basic international treaties and the manuals on international humanitarian law.

The above-mentioned cooperation also includes the organization of joint training events and ministerial and/or expert level participation in international conferences, seminars and other specialized events organized by ICRC.

Implementation of the principles of international humanitarian law in current armed conflicts is fostered by means of manuals issued for members of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic deployed in international operations.

Since 2002, the Committee on International Humanitarian Law, established in 2001 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has performed the role of the Minister's standing advisory body.

Slovenia

[10 June 2010]

Since 1992, the Republic of Slovenia has become a party to all the most important conventions and other international humanitarian law instruments. It undertook intensive activities aimed at drafting and adopting national regulations that needed to be harmonized with international humanitarian law instruments.

The Republic of Slovenia made organizational and institutional adaptation of its authorities and institutions so that they were able to carry out relevant tasks and obligations. Throughout, it has also endeavoured to systematically disseminate knowledge in the field of international humanitarian law.

Since the 2008 periodic report, the Republic of Slovenia has ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008), which entered into force in 2009.

The ratification of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries (1989) is being considered.

The Service in the Slovenian Armed Forces Act was amended, changing the age for children's participation in armed conflicts from 15 to 18 years of age.

The Cultural Heritage Protection Act includes tasks of the State deriving from the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1999).

The Criminal Code was also amended so that it now regulates criminal offences against humanity, transposing provisions of numerous international conventions, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols to the Slovenian legal order.

In the operations of security forces and police special emphasis is given to the training of police officers participating in international peace operations. All these police officers must attend a special seminar on International Humanitarian Law.

In 2008 and 2009, the Ministry of Defence organized a number of courses for Slovenian participants in international peace operations within the framework of the Civil-Military-Cooperation Functional Specialist Course. All members of the Slovenian Armed Forces taking part in international peace operations attended special courses on international humanitarian law, and nature and cultural heritage protection, religion and customs in international peace support operations and other crisis-response operations.

International humanitarian law issues are also part of the curricula of secondary medical schools, law faculties and the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana. The inclusion of international humanitarian law contents in elementary and general secondary schools was analysed and a pilot programme has been drafted for the inclusion of international humanitarian law into curricula (compulsory teaching contents) on the basis of the ICRC Exploring Humanitarian Law; a detailed programme is to be adopted in 2010.

The Inter-Ministerial Commission on International Humanitarian Law was established by the Government in 1999. In 2009, the Government expanded the composition of the Commission to include representatives of various ministries and representatives of the Slovenian Red Cross and the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana.

The Commission formulates, harmonizes and manages activities for the implementation of the Republic of Slovenia's obligations in the field of international humanitarian law, as well as dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law.

In 2010, the Commission established the Task Force for Coordinating the Work of Ministries in the Implementation of the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Second Protocol, and other similar international instruments.

Sweden

[18 June 2010]

Sweden has been a party to Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions since 1979.

The Swedish Government has signed Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions and is currently in the process of preparing for ratification.

Sweden has ratified the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War of 2003 (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, Geneva, 1980).

The Swedish Government has signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions of 2008, and is currently in the process of preparing for ratification.

During the Swedish Presidency of the European Union, in 2009, a number of initiatives and actions were taken to strengthen and mainstream international humanitarian law. A conference in Brussels on "Current Challenges for International Humanitarian Law: How to Enhance Respect by Non-State Actors" was organized by the Swedish Presidency of the European Union, together with ICRC. The European Union adopted Council conclusions on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law. The Council of the European Union also adopted an updated version of the European Union guidelines on international humanitarian law.

Sweden actively participated in and made a financial contribution to the work of a group of international experts assigned to produce a manual on the conduct of air and missile warfare. The group concluded its work in 2009.

Sweden contributed financially to a number of international humanitarian law-related activities, among them support for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and to the International Criminal Court. The International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo and the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission also receive annual contributions. In 2009, Sweden also made a financial contribution to the Swedish Red Cross for the development of teaching materials on international humanitarian law.

In 2010, the Swedish Committee on Public International Law published a report containing a compilation of treaties and other central documents relevant to situations of armed conflict, primarily international humanitarian law but also including international human rights law.

Sudan

[10 June 2010]

Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions have been ratified by the Sudan since 2005. The National Committee for International Humanitarian Law was established by presidential decree No. '48-/2003 to: review legislation concerning international humanitarian law; determine arrangements for the implementation of international humanitarian law; participate in conducting studies concerning international humanitarian law; and to render advice and recommendations in the field of international humanitarian law to Government institutions.

The Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act (2004); the Armed Forces Act (2007); the Criminal (Amendment) Act (2008); and the Child Act (2010) contain provisions that make Sudanese Laws compatible with the two Protocols.

The National Committee for International Humanitarian Law and other concerned institutions in the Sudan have organized many workshops and seminars

for training and raising awareness of the Armed Forces and the general public in the field of international humanitarian law.

Turkmenistan

[7 June 2010]

Upon obtaining independence and the status of permanent neutrality, Turkmenistan adopted the Declaration on international obligations in the field of human rights and freedoms and the Declaration on the foreign policy course of Turkmenistan in the twenty-first century based on permanent neutrality and the principles of peaceableness, good-neighbourliness and democracy, and thereby set its independent course towards resolving humanitarian issues.

Turkmenistan recognizes the key importance of the generally accepted norms of international law and has ratified more than 100 conventions, including 40 fundamental international agreements on human rights.

Besides those international human rights documents, Turkmenistan adhered in 1992 to the basic four Geneva Conventions of 1949 for the protection of war victims and the two Additional Protocols to the Conventions of 1977.

Over the years since independence, Turkmenistan has adhered to a number of other international instruments in the field of humanitarian law, as follows:

- The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and two protocols to the Convention: Protocol I on Non-Detectable Fragments and Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices;
- The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993;
- The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction of 1997;
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict; and others.

In accordance with the obligations it has assumed in the field of international humanitarian law, Turkmenistan has adopted various laws, namely, the Act on the legal regime at times of national emergency (1990), the Act on mobilization and preparation for mobilization in Turkmenistan (1998), the Act on the use and protection of the symbols of the Red Crescent and the Red Cross (2001), and the Act on civil defence (2003).

The Criminal Code of Turkmenistan devotes significant attention to international humanitarian law. In particular, in its special chapter 21, which deals with responsibility for crimes against the peace and security of humanity, the Criminal Code of Turkmenistan provides for criminal responsibility for the illegal use of the symbols of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The development and realization of the rules and principles of humanitarian law are the task of the National Red Crescent Society, founded in 1926. In 1995, the

National Society joined the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The structure of the National Red Crescent Society embraces the entire country and has more than 150,000 members and volunteers, who participate actively in its activities.

The priority tasks of the National Society include disseminating information about international humanitarian law and the basic principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The National Society regularly conducts informational seminars on the basis of international humanitarian law and the correct use of the Red Crescent emblem for the benefit of cadets, students and teachers, as well as specialists from interested ministries and departments.

At present, serious efforts are under way to include the bases of international humanitarian law in the programmes of educational establishments. The educational programme of the Turkmen State Medical Institute, for instance, now includes topics relating to international humanitarian law, in particular the role, tasks, rights and obligations of medical staff in situations of armed conflict.

One of the important activities of the National Red Crescent Society is to raise the level of knowledge among the population by issuing annual reports, informational bulletins, booklets and textbooks.

As examples, one can cite booklets, such as *War and the Law* and *The Emblems of the International Red Crescent and Red Cross Movement* and the textbook entitled *Rights and Obligations of Medical Personnel in Armed Conflict*, which have been issued in the national language and in Russian.

All of the multifaceted humanitarian work of the National Society is based on the Strategy of the National Society for 2007-2010 and the strategy of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

In 2010, a three-day forum was held involving the leaders of the national societies of Central Asian countries. It was organized by the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan with the support of ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Central Asia.

The forum exchanged experiences, indicated areas for future cooperation and set priorities for work on various issues.

In order to establish the legal status of the National Red Crescent Society and regulate the social relationships associated with its humanitarian work in Turkmenistan and abroad, a draft Act is being prepared on the National Red Crescent Society.

With the help of ICRC, work is under way on draft regulations for an interdepartmental working group on implementation of international humanitarian law and on developing an educational international humanitarian law programme.

In 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, the Presidential Turkmen National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and ICRC organized a round table on the legal bases and practical measures for implementing the norms of international law in the national legislation of Turkmenistan with the participation of representatives of Parliament, various ministries and departments, higher educational institutions and the mass media.

III. Information received from international organizations

International Committee of the Red Cross

[13 August 2010]

ICRC submitted an addendum to its contribution of 1 June 2010 to the report of the Secretary-General, as requested in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 63/125.

Annex

List of States parties to Additional Protocol III of 8 December 2005 as at 7 July 2010 (1)

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reservation/Declaration*[a]
Afghanistan			
Albania		6 February 2008	
Algeria			
Andorra			
Angola	14 March 2006		
Antigua and Barbuda			
Argentina	13 March 2006		
Armenia			
Australia	8 March 2006	15 July 2009	
Austria	8 December 2005	3 June 2009	
Azerbaijan			
Bahamas			
Bahrain			
Bangladesh			
Barbados			
Belarus			
Belgium	8 December 2005		
Belize		3 April 2007	
Benin			
Bhutan			
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	8 December 2005		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	14 March 2006		
Botswana			
Brazil	14 March 2006	28 August 2009	
Brunei Darussalam			

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reservation/Declaration*[a]
Bulgaria	14 March 2006	13 September 2006	
Burkina Faso	7 December 2006		
Burundi	8 December 2005		
Cambodia			
Cameroon			
Canada	19 June 2006	26 November 2007	26 November 2007 (Declaration)
Cape Verde	10 January 2006		
Central African Republic			
Chad			
Chile	8 December 2005	6 July 2009	
China			
Colombia	8 December 2005		
Comoros			
Congo	8 December 2005		
Cook Islands			
Costa Rica	8 December 2005	30 June 2008	
Côte d'Ivoire			
Croatia	29 May 2006	13 June 2007	
Cuba			
Cyprus	19 June 2006	27 November 2007	
Czech Republic	12 April 2006	23 May 2007	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea			
Democratic Republic of the Congo			
Denmark	8 December 2005	25 May 2007	
Djibouti			
Dominica			
Dominican Republic	26 July 2006	1 April 2009	

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reservation/Declaration*[a]
Ecuador	8 December 2005		
Egypt			
El Salvador	8 March 2006	12 September 2007	
Equatorial Guinea			
Eritrea			
Estonia	14 March 2006	28 February 2008	
Ethiopia	13 March 2006		
Fiji		30 July 2008	
Finland	14 March 2006	14 January 2009	
France	8 December 2005	17 July 2009	
Gabon			
Gambia			
Georgia	28 September 2006	19 March 2007	
Germany	13 March 2006	17 June 2009	
Ghana	14 June 2006		
Greece	8 December 2005	26 October 2009	
Grenada			
Guatemala	8 December 2005	14 March 2008	
Guinea			
Guinea-Bissau			
Guyana		21 September 2009	
Haiti	6 December 2006		
Holy See			
Honduras	13 March 2006	8 December 2006	
Hungary	19 June 2006	15 November 2006	
Iceland	17 May 2006	4 August 2006	
India			
Indonesia			

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reservation/Declaration*[a]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)			
Iraq			
Ireland	20 June 2006		
Israel	8 December 2005	22 November 2007	22 November 2007 (Declaration)
Italy	8 December 2005	29 January 2009	
Jamaica	5 December 2006		
Japan			
Jordan			
Kazakhstan		24 June 2009	
Kenya	30 March 2006		
Kiribati			
Kuwait			
Kyrgyzstan			
Lao People's Democratic Republic			
Latvia	20 June 2006	2 April 2007	
Lebanon			
Lesotho			
Liberia			
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya			
Liechtenstein	8 December 2005	24 August 2006	
Lithuania	6 December 2006	28 November 2007	
Luxembourg	8 December 2005		
Madagascar	8 December 2005		
Malawi			
Malaysia			
Maldives			
Mali			

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reservation/Declaration*[a]
Malta	8 December 2005		
Marshall Islands			
Mauritania			
Mauritius			
Mexico	16 November 2006	7 July 2008	
Micronesia (Federated States of)			
Monaco	15 March 2006	12 March 2007	
Mongolia			
Montenegro			
Morocco			
Mozambique			
Myanmar			
Namibia			
Nauru	27 June 2006		
Nepal	14 March 2006		
Netherlands	14 March 2006	13 December 2006	
New Zealand	19 June 2006		
Nicaragua	8 March 2006	2 April 2009	
Niger			
Nigeria			
Norway	8 December 2005	13 June 2006	
Oman			
Pakistan			
Palau			
Panama	19 June 2006		
Papua New Guinea			
Paraguay	14 March 2006	13 October 2008	
Peru	8 December 2005		

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reservation/Declaration*[a]
Philippines	13 March 2006	22 August 2006	
Poland	20 June 2006	26 October 2009	
Portugal	8 December 2005		
Qatar			
Republic of Korea	2 August 2006		
Republic of Moldova	13 September 2006	19 August 2008	19 August 2008 (Declaration)
Romania	20 June 2006		
Russian Federation	7 December 2006		
Rwanda			
Saint Kitts and Nevis			
Saint Lucia			
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			
Samoa			
San Marino	19 January 2006	22 June 2007	
Sao Tome and Principe			
Saudi Arabia			
Senegal			
Serbia	31 March 2006		
Seychelles			
Sierra Leone	20 June 2006		
Singapore	2 August 2006	7 July 2008	
Slovakia	25 April 2006	30 May 2007	
Slovenia	19 May 2006	10 March 2008	
Solomon Islands			
Somalia			
South Africa			
Spain	23 December 2005		

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reservation/Declaration*[a]
Sri Lanka			
Sudan			
Suriname			
Swaziland			
Sweden	30 March 2006		
Switzerland	8 December 2005	14 July 2006	
Syrian Arab Republic			
Tajikistan			
Thailand			
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 May 2006	14 October 2008	
Timor-Leste	8 December 2005		
Togo	26 June 2006		
Tonga			
Trinidad and Tobago			
Tunisia			
Turkey	7 December 2006		
Turkmenistan			
Tuvalu			
Uganda		21 May 2008	
Ukraine	23 June 2006	19 January 2010	
United Arab Emirates			
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	8 December 2005	23 October 2009	
United Republic of Tanzania	8 December 2005		
United States of America	8 December 2005	8 March 2007	
Uruguay	13 March 2006		
Uzbekistan			

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reservation/Declaration*[a]
Vanuatu			
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)			
Viet Nam			
Yemen			
Zambia			
Zimbabwe			
Number of States Signatories			**84**
Number of States Parties			**52**

Source: The Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs. http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/dbstv/data75/e_20060375.html.

[a] Ratification, accession or succession accompanied by a reservation and/or a declaration.